"CONTACT INFECTION"

DEAR EDITOR: I am not acquainted with the article referred to by the nurse who styles herself "A Back Number," but I should imagine "contact infection" in typhoid fever to mean practically the same as "digital infection." The hands (fingers in particular) coming in direct contact with the typhoid bacillus during the necessary attention to the patient's person, clothing, bed-pan, etc., unless thoroughly disinfected, *especially before meals,* act as carriers of infection. Years of observation have convinced me that lack of proper attention to the hands is a common cause of typhoid fever among nurses. May be I am "off the track" and the "contact infection" referred to may be something else; if so, I subscribe myself ANOTHER BACK NUMBER.

EQUAL SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT

HEADQUARTERS NATIONAL AMERICAN WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION,
WARREN, OHIO, September 15, 1906.

DEAR MADAM: For many years, at every session of Congress, there has been introduced and referred to the appropriate committee a joint resolution providing for submitting to the State legislatures an amendment to the Constitution of the United States allowing women to vote. Hitherto this joint resolution has never received the necessary vote of two-thirds of the members of both Houses of Congress.

It is our belief that one of the reasons for past failure lies in the neglect of women, in the different States, to ask candidates for election to Congress, *before the elections,* whether or not they will vote for the submission of this amendment.

Members of Congress who pass through the campaign without being made aware of the desire of their constituents for the submission of this amendment, cannot reasonably be expected to interest themselves in it simply by reason of a congressional committee hearing, courteously granted, as a matter of form, to its advocates.

In order that candidates for election to Congress, next November, may be informed of the widespread desire for the enfranchisement of women, the undersigned committee asks not only suffrage clubs, but all women's clubs, to interrogate candidates of all parties, in their respective districts, as to the candidates' intentions with regard to the joint resolution providing for submitting to the legislatures of the States an amendment to the Constitution of the United States allowing women to vote.

If you care to participate in this effort on a national scale to secure the submission of this sixteenth amendment to the Constitution, will

you bring the matter to the attention of your club at the first appropriate opportunity? Or, if your club excludes from its work all effort to promote legislation, will you not, simply as a citizen, interrogate the candidates for election to Congress in the district in which you live?

In every case, whether favorable, unfavorable, evasive, or not forthcoming, the answer of the candidates should be made public in the newspapers in the district and also forwarded to the undersigned.

Hoping that you will kindly apprise us of whatever action you may take, and wishing that it may be prompt and helpful, we remain,

Yours respectfully,

KATE M. GORDON, *Secretary,*
ANNICE JEFFREY MYERS,
FLORENCE KELLEY,
Committee on Congressional Legislation.

"LET me picture to you some of the habits of the fly, and then we shall see if it is unreasonable to believe that he is an important factor in the spread of disease. Turn about you and see the swarms of flies upon decaying vegetable matter—in the garbage-cans, on the manure-piles, everywhere. Watch the flies swarming upon the filth of the streets, such as sputum and bones and decaying vegetables. Follow him further and see him alighting upon the candy offered for sale by the street venders, and on all the fruit at the stands. And the meats, have you observed how they are carried in open wagons through the streets without protection, covered with flies? Cooking this meat does not change the fact that it is simply nasty.

"And we must go into the shops and homes of the poor, those unfortunates whose houses are not protected by screens to keep out flies. Flies everywhere! In the children's mouths and noses; in the house; out of the house; on the food left there upon the table, which is never cleared; on the food left over, and which the children eat at all times between meals; in the milk pitcher; in the soup; in the molasses.

"This is no idle picture of the dangers from fly infection. We know that their dejecta alone contain millions of bacteria.

"Urge upon every one the screening of houses, and especially of food."—*J. O. Cobb, M.D.*